Reply of Government.—All possible concessions will be shown. The inamdars will also be consulted when the rules are revised.

SUBJECT No. 196.

Inamdars not to refund the amount advanced to them on account of excise revenue due to them.

Messrs. Amble Anniah Pandit and C. Narasimhaiya, Mysore District Board.

Withdrawn.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL BOARDS.

(*Nos. 197 to 208.*)

SUBJECT No. 197.

Reduction of the powers of patels in Unions.

Mr. Ramanuja Iyengar, Gubbi taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(1) Patels should not be in charge of Union cattle pounds. The present system is not convenient to the people because the patel is not able to be near the pound. Ryots are generally uneducated and they pay whatever sums they are asked to pay and are satisfied if cattle be released. They do not see whether cattle are properly fed in pounds for the reason that the patel is both the Union panchayetdar and the pound-keeper and can dominate over ryots in various other ways. The income may also considerably increase, if a separate pound-mutsaddi under the supervision of the Union members be appointed.

(2) As sweepers are *totis* who are the patels' subordinates, the sweeping work is not generally carried out in accordance with the wishes of other panchayetdars. And as patels generally hold extensive lands, their chief object is to store as much manure as possible. It is on a consideration of all such defects that in the Madras Legislative Council, it has been pressed to notice that a village headman's position as a Union member is opposed to the principles of local self-government.

(3) Again, patels make use of such *totis* for collection work also. These *totis* and *talaris* are also village servants who get *mirasis* from villagers. One anna in a rupee is unlawfully collected as being the fees for the Union officials as for instance in Kadaba. Such being the case, how can the object of the Sanitary Department be fulfilled and how can the income from cattle pounds increase? It is therefore prayed that these defects be remedied by giving more independence to the non-official members.

Under the District Board Regulation, the patel is *not* an *ex-officio* member.

The member was not able to quote any specific instances in support of his statements.

Reply of Government.—Noted.